

SOLE INVENTOR

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES PROVISIONAL PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, Michael B. Foy, a citizen of the United States, residing at 913 Green Bay Road, in the Village of Winnetka, County of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful FOLDING CHAIR of which the following is a specification.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Folding Chair

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of
Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/397,273, filed
10 July 19, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

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This invention relates generally to a folding
chair and, more particularly, to a folding chair which is
concealable within a relatively thin frame.

20 Background Art

In the prior art, folding chairs are well-known.
The following United States patents are representative of
the prior art and illustrate many of the devices that have
25 been used in the past.

In Wang, United States Patent No. 4,415,201,
entitled "Folding Chair Having a Reversible Seat", issued
November 15, 1983, a folding chair is shown with a
reversible seat and having sliding grooves on the inner
30 side of the upper legs to facilitate up and down sliding

movement of the seat while folding it for storage.

In Goetz, United States Patent No. Des. 314,871, entitled "Foldable Chair", issued February 26, 1991, a folding chair is shown with a seat movable along grooves
5 formed in the upper legs.

In Merritt et al., United States Patent No. 317,402, entitled "Folding Chair", issued May 5, 1885, a chair is shown which has two pairs of pivots and slide grooves enabling the chair to be folded flat. One set of
10 grooves on the upper legs permits the seat back to slide therealong and the other set of grooves connecting the legs together permitting the legs to move linearly relative to each other.

In Howarth, United States Patent No. 63,897, entitled "Folding Chair", issued April 16, 1867, a folding
15 chair is shown with grooves formed in the upper legs for guiding movement of the seat.

In Hopkins, United States Patent No. 326,564, entitled "Folding Chair", issued September 22, 1885, a
20 flexible seat is supported by front and rear bars, the rear bar sliding in opposed grooves defined in spaced, upright back standards.

In Schmitt, United States Patent No. 1,800,107, entitled "Folding Chair", issued April 7, 1931, a metal
25 chair is shown in which the seat is provided with sliding pivot blocks that move within channels defined in the chair leg.

In Silverman, United States Patent No. 1,704,712, entitled "Folding Chair", issued March 12, 1929, a metal
30 chair is disclosed where the upper ends of the rear legs

Application of Michael B. Foy

have pivots sliding within grooves defined in the sides
edges of the seat.
In Wilson, United States Patent No. 162,447,
entitled "Adjustable Iron Chair", issued April 20, 1875,
5 the ends of the front legs of a chair are each slidable in
a slot defined in a horizontal supporting bar.

The above patents illustrate a portion of the
wide array of folding chairs that have been designed. Some
are not durable or sturdy. Some cannot be folded
10 completely flat to conserve storage space, while others are
heavy to carry or difficult to fold and unfold. Thus,
those chairs cannot be conveniently stored or concealed.
Other chairs employ complex mechanisms and are costly to
make.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to overcoming
one or more of the problems as set forth above.

20 It is a general object of the present invention
to provide a new and improved folding chair which is
simple, inexpensive, compact, light, durable, sturdy,
rigid, and multi-functional.

25 It is another object of the present invention to
provide a folding chair which can be easily operated and
can be folded or collapsed so as to have the thinnest
profile possible.

30 It is an additional object of the present
invention to provide a folding chair that can be concealed

in a frame and hung on a wall, thus conserving floor space, the frame acting as a conventional-type picture frame to provide a display area for artwork, advertising or other desirable images thereby.

5 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a folding chair that has no locking mechanisms, gravity holding the chair in an open, unfolded position, as well as in a closed, folded position.

 In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a
10 chair is provided which can be folded and concealed within a thin rectangular frame. The frame has side walls and top and bottom walls; the chair has first and second pairs of legs and a seat positioned between the legs. The frame and chair include a pair of pivots connecting respective legs
15 together, a pair of pivots engaging a cooperating pair of sliding slots for connecting respective first leg upper ends to the frame, a pair of pivots for connecting the respective second leg lower ends to the frame, a pair of forward seat pivots for connecting the seat to respective
20 second leg upper ends, a pair of pivots on the seat rearward of the forward seat pivots and engaging a cooperating pair of sliding slots for connecting the seat to the first leg pair, whereby the chair may be moved
25 between an open position with the seat and legs extended from the frame and a closed position with the seat and legs all substantially aligned within the frame.

 In another exemplary embodiment of the invention, arm rests are pivotally mounted to the frame for movement between an open position extended above and to the sides of
30 the seat and a closed position within the frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE
SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

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The details of construction and operation of the invention are more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and in which like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout.

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In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a first embodiment of a folding chair constructed in accordance with the present invention in an open position extending from a frame;

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Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the folding chair shown in Fig. 1 taken along line 2-2;

Fig. 3 is a front perspective view of the folding chair of Fig. 1 in a closed position within its frame;

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Fig. 4 is a rear perspective view of the folding chair of Fig. 1 showing the back of the frame;

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view of the folding chair showing the chair partially extended from its frame;

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Fig. 6 is a front perspective view of a second embodiment of a folding chair constructed in accordance with the invention in an open position extending from a frame;

Fig. 7 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the folding chair shown in Fig. 6 taken along line 7-7;

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Fig. 8 is a front perspective view of a third embodiment of a folding chair constructed in accordance

with the invention in an open position extending from a frame;

Fig. 9 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the folding chair shown in Fig. 8 taken along line 9-9.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

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Referring to the drawings, a concealable chair, generally designated 10, constructed substantially in accordance with the present invention is seen to generally comprise three basic components: a thin, rectangular frame, generally designated 12; a folding chair, generally designated 14, including a seat 15, a first pair of spaced apart, relatively long, front legs 17 and 18, a second pair of spaced apart, relatively short, rear legs 20 and 21, and a back 23; and, a pair of arm rests 25 and 26.

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Referring to Fig. 1, the rectangular frame 12 is seen to include opposed, spaced upright thin outer side walls 30 and 31, opposed, spaced thin top and bottom walls 32 and 33 extending between the corresponding upper and lower ends of the outer side walls 30 and 31, and a back panel 35. The L-shaped walls 30, 31, 32 and 33 and the back panel 35 mounted on the inwardly extending legs of the L-shaped walls define a relatively thin, rectangular box, or picture frame, with a shallow internal cavity (not numbered) with an open front. The thickness of the frame, i.e., the depth of the frame cavity as defined by length

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the upright portions of the L-shaped walls, should be as thin as possible, preferably, 1-3/4 inches or less. Spaced inwardly from and parallel to each of the side walls 30 and 31 within the frame 12 are a pair of opposed, spaced
5 upright inner side walls 37 and 38, which extend between the top and bottom walls 32 and 33. As seen in Fig. 1, the inner side walls 37 and 38 may be of more substantial construction than the frame walls 30, 31, 32 and 33 to provide more rigid support for a seated person. The inner
10 side walls 37 and 38 have slightly less depth than the frame walls 30, 31, 32 and 33, but there is no requirement that they be so.

The front legs 17 and 18 extend upwardly and rearwardly from their respective lower ends 40 and 41
15 resting on the supporting surface to a point adjacent to and inward of the upright inner side walls 37 and 38. Extending between the lower portions of the front legs is a horizontal cross brace member 43. The brace 43 is placed on the front face of the front legs 17 and 18 so as not to
20 interfere with the folding action of the chair 14. The respective upper ends 45 and 46 of the front legs 17 and 18 each have lateral outwardly extending pivots 48 positioned in cooperatively-engaging, elongate sliding slots 49 and 50 defined in the respective inward faces of the inner upright
25 walls 37 and 38. The slots 49 and 50 may extend through or partially into the side walls 37 and 38. The pivots 48 enable the legs 17 and 18 to rotate thereabout as the upper ends 45 and 46 of the legs 17 and 18 are moved upwardly and downwardly relative to the slots 49 and 50. The specific
30 position and length of the slots 49 and 50 are selected to

provide an appropriate range of movement between open and closed positions.

The chair back 23 is rotatably connected to the upper end portions of the long legs 17 and 18 by respective lateral outwardly extending pivots 51. The back 23 extends between the upper end portions of the long legs 17 and 18 to maintain them in spaced position. The back 23 may be tilted as necessary relative to the chair for the comfort of the user. Defined adjacent the upper edge of the midsection of the back 23 is a slot 53 adapted to receive a hook, nail, or other hanger so that the frame 12 with the folded chair 14 therein may be mounted to a wall (not shown), upright surface, or the like. To enable the frame 12 to be hung lengthwise, i.e., turned 90°, a similar slot 54 is defined in a bracket 55 provided adjacent the long outer side wall 31 intermediate the top and bottom walls 32 and 33.

As seen in Fig. 1, when the chair 14 is moved to a open position, the seat 15 lies in a generally horizontal orientation. The thin, rigid seat 15 has a generally rectangular configuration. However, the seat 15 has ears 57 and 58 extending laterally outward from either side thereof adjacent its rear edge 77 to define stepped-in portions 60 and 61 on either side edge continuing to its front edge 76, thereby defining a narrowed portion extending forward from the ears 57 and 58 to the front edge 76 of the seat 15. The ears 57 and 58 have respective lateral outwardly extending pivots 63 positioned in cooperatively-engaging, elongate sliding slots 64 and 65 defined in the respective midsection of the inward faces of

the long legs 17 and 18. The slots 64 and 65 may extend through or partially into the inner side of each of the long legs 17 and 18. The pivots 63 enable the seat to rotate thereabout as the upper ends of the legs 17 and 18
5 are moved upwardly and downwardly. The specific position and length of the slots 64 and 65 are selected to provide an appropriate range of movement of the folding chair between open and closed positions.

The rear legs 20 and 21 extend upwardly and
10 forwardly from their respective lower ends 67 and 68 to their respective upper ends 70 and 71 positioned on either side of the seat 15. The lower ends 67 and 68 of the rear legs 20 and 21 are each positioned inward of and spaced from the respective upright inner walls 37 and 38
15 approximately the width of the front legs 17 and 18. The lower ends 67 and 68 of the rear legs 20 and 21 have laterally extending pivots 73 and 74 rotatably connected to respective lower ends of the upright inner walls 37 and 38 to enable the rear legs 20 and 21 to rotate or swing
20 relative to the frame 12 about a common horizontal axis. The upper ends 70 and 71 of the rear legs 20 and 21 are each positioned outward of the seat 15 and intermediate the seat's front and rear edges 76 and 77 within the stepped-in portions 60 and 61 and have lateral inwardly extending
25 pivots 80 and 81 to enable the rear legs 20 and 21 to rotate relative to the seat 15 about a common horizontal axis. The position of the seat pivots 80 and 81 are forward of the pivots 63, which are rearward and spaced therefrom, to provide adequate support for the seat 15 and
30 a user sitting thereon. The rear legs 20 and 21 are

positioned inwardly of the respective front legs 17 and 18 with each pair of respective front and rear legs 17,20 and 18,21 being provided with pivots 82 and 83 to rotatably connect the respective short and long legs together at a point along their midsection intermediate their respective upper and lower ends and enable the legs to swing relative to one another about a common horizontal axis.

The spaced, elongate arm rests 25 and 26 have a T-shaped cross-section and are disposed one on either side of the frame 12 between their respective inner and outer upright walls 30,37 and 31,38. The rearward ends of the arm rests 25 and 26 each are provided with a suitable pivot 84 and 85 so that they may be rotated between a closed, upright position within the frame 12 between the inner and outer upright walls as seen in Fig. 4 and an open, extended position as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. In the open position, the free ends of the arm rests 25 and 26 extend outward from the frame 12 with the upper surfaces thereof disposed horizontally to act as left and right arm rests. Downward rotation of the arm rests 25 and 26 beyond the open position is limited by contact of the rear edges of the arm rests 25 and 26 with the inner surface of the back panel 35. It should be apparent that other methods of mounting the arms and limiting movement thereof are available.

Note that as an optional construction the arm rests may be eliminated entirely. In that case, the frame would be defined by the two inner upright walls, the bottom wall and the top wall. The outer side walls would be removed and the back panel would only extend between the side walls and the bottom and top walls. To provide a

Application of Michael B. Foy

clean appearance, the slots for the leg pivots would not extend through the entire thickness of the side walls, but only have a depth sufficient for the pivot to function.

In closed position as shown in Fig. 3, the seat 15 and legs 17, 18, 20 and 21 as well as the arm rests 25 and 26 are all positioned within the frame 12. In this position, the long front legs 17 and 18 are positioned inward of and next to the inner upright walls 37 and 38 and the short rear legs 20 and 21 are positioned next to the front legs 17 and 18. The rear legs 20 and 21 are spaced from the inner upright walls 37 and 38 with long pivots 73 and 74. The length of each long leg 17 and 18 from the pivots 80 and 81 to the lower free end 40 and 41 is shorter than the length of the short legs 20 and 21 from the pivots 80 and 81 to the lower pivoted ends 67 and 68. The front legs 17 and 18 which are positioned between respective inner upright walls 37 and 38 and the rear legs 20 and 21 thereby overlying the rear leg pivots 73 and 74 when the chair is in a closed, folded position. The pivots 73 and 74 thereby extend between the inner upright walls 37 and 38 and the rear legs 20 and 21 below the lower ends 40 and 41 of the front legs 17 and 18. The rear edge 77 of the seat 15 is disposed between the front legs 17 and 18 and the front edge 76 of the seat 15 is disposed between the rear legs 20 and 21. The narrower stepped front portion of the seat 15 defined forward of the ears 57 and 58 permits the rear legs 20 and 21 to be placed between the front legs 17 and 18 which are connected directly to the rear of the seat 15.

When the folding chair 15 is folded to its fully

Application of Michael B. Foy

closed position, the frame 12 can be stored or hung on a wall with the open side of the frame 12 facing the wall so that the parts of the folding chair 14 are hidden against the wall and the outer surface 36 of the back panel 35 is visible. The outer surface 36 of the back panel 35 can have artwork, advertising, or other visual displays to provide a pleasing or informative appearance.

When the chair 14 is to be unfolded, the front legs 17 and 18 are pulled out from the lower part of the frame 12. This, in turn, causes the upper ends 45 and 46 of the respective front legs 17 and 18 to rotate forwardly and move downwardly. Simultaneously, the rear legs 20 and 21 are pulled out with the respective upper ends 70 and 71 downwardly. Since the seat 15 is pivotally attached to both the front and rear legs, it is also rotated from its folded vertical position to its unfolded horizontal position when the legs are fully extended. Further, since the seat back 23 is attached to the front legs 17 and 18 at a position spaced from the pivoted upper ends 45 and 46, it will be positioned slightly forward of the open side of the frame 12. The arm rests 25 and 26 are optionally and individually lowered to their operative horizontal position upwardly of and to either side of the seat.

In a fully opened position, the seat 15 will be substantially horizontal with the lower ends 40 and 41 of the respective front legs 17 and 18 and the bottom wall 33 lying on approximately the same horizontal plane and the supporting floor or surface (not shown). The back panel 35 will be substantially upright or tilted $\pm 5^\circ$ from

vertical. The relative position of legs to the frame and to one another and the relative position and length of the slots to the pivots are determined by the need to achieve the above positions and by the need to have the chair 15
5 fold entirely within the frame 12, preferably, as thin and flat as possible.

In the unfolded, open position as seen in Fig. 1, the upper pivots 48 of the front legs 17 and 18 will rest at the bottom of the inner upright slots 49 and 50 and the
10 seat pivots 63 will rest at the bottom of the front leg slots 64 and 65. Gravity holds and locks the chair 14 in an unfolded position. A person sitting in the chair 14 basically forces the pivots to their lowermost positions in their respective slots.

15 It is understood that the position of the pivots and slots may vary or may be adjusted in the various constructions of the folding chair built in accordance with the present invention depending of the size and orientation of the parts employed by the user.

20 As another example, the length of the arm rests can be extended without increasing the height of the frame, if the arm rests 84 and 85 are lowered, i.e., the pivots for the arm rests are positioned further down in the frame. Or, the arm rests can be raised, if the arm rests are
25 shortened.

The chair may be made of wood, plastic, or metal as desired. Extruded plastic, aluminum, or steel provide a pleasing appearance and an appropriate finish. The inner side walls to provide additional structural strength to
30 support the seat and the user may be made of stronger

Application of Michael B. Foy

material or be shaped or configured to have a cross-sectional area greater than the cross-sectional area of the outer side walls. The back panel may be made of any relatively thin rigid or flexible material, such as wood, plastic, plexiglass, cardboard, canvas, or metal. The seat and seat back may be covered with a layer of sorbothane, other polyurethane material, or any other suitable material to provide a comfortable cushion.

A second embodiment of the chair and frame assembly, generally designated 110, is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 and is seen to generally comprise three basic components: a thin, rectangular frame, generally designated 112; a folding chair, generally designated 114, including a seat 115, a first pair of spaced apart, relatively long, front legs 117 and 118, a second pair of spaced apart, relatively short, rear legs 120 and 121, and a back 123; and, a pair of arm rests 125 and 126.

The rectangular frame 112 is seen to include opposed, spaced upright thin outer side walls 130 and 131, opposed, spaced thin top and bottom walls 132 and 133 extending between the corresponding upper and lower ends of the outer side walls 130 and 131, and a back panel 135. The L-shaped walls 130, 131, 132 and 133 and the back panel 135 mounted on the inwardly extending legs of the L-shaped walls define a relatively thin, rectangular box, or picture frame, with a shallow internal cavity and an open front. Spaced inwardly from and parallel to each of the side walls 130 and 131 within the frame 112 are a pair of opposed, spaced upright inner side walls 137 and 138, which extend between the top and bottom walls 132 and 133.

The front legs 117 and 118 extend upwardly and rearwardly from their respective lower ends 140 and 141 resting on the supporting surface to a point adjacent to and inward of the upright inner side walls 137 and 138. A
5 cross brace 143 is provided between the front legs 117 and 118 for rigidity and for use as a possible foot rest. The respective upper ends 146 of the front legs 117 and 118 each have lateral outwardly extending pivots 148 positioned in cooperatively-engaging, elongate sliding slots 150
10 defined in the respective inward faces of the inner upright walls 137 and 138.

The seat 115 has ears 157 and 158 extending laterally outward from either side thereof adjacent its rear edge 177 to define stepped-in portions 160 and 161 on
15 either side edge continuing to its front edge 176, thereby defining a narrowed portion extending forward from the ears 157 and 158 to the front edge 176 of the seat 115. The ears 157 and 158 have respective lateral outwardly extending pivots 163 positioned in cooperatively-engaging,
20 elongate sliding slots 164 and 165 defined in the respective midsection of the inward faces of the long legs 117 and 118.

The rear legs 120 and 121 extend upwardly and forwardly from their respective lower ends 167 and 168 to
25 their respective upper ends 170 and 171 positioned on either side of the seat 115. The lower ends 167 and 168 of the rear legs 120 and 121 are each positioned inward of and spaced from the respective upright inner walls 137 and 138 approximately the width of the front legs 117 and 118. The
30 lower ends 167 and 168 of the rear legs 120 and 121 have

Application of Michael B. Foy

laterally extending pivots 173 and 174 rotatably connected to respective lower ends of the upright inner walls 137 and 138 to enable the rear legs 120 and 121 to rotate or swing relative to the frame 112. The upper ends 170 and 171 of the rear legs 120 and 121 are each positioned outward of the seat 115 and intermediate the seat's front and rear edges 176 and 177 within the stepped-in portions 160 and 161 and have lateral inwardly extending pivots 180 and 181 to enable the rear legs 120 and 121 to rotate relative to the seat 115. The position of the seat pivots 181 are forward of the pivots 163, which are rearward and spaced therefrom, to provide adequate support for the seat 115 and a user sitting thereon. The rear legs 120 and 121 are positioned inwardly of the respective front legs 117 and 118 with each pair of respective front and rear legs 117, 120 and 118, 121 being provided with pivots 183 to rotatably connect the respective short and long legs together at a point along their midsection intermediate their respective upper and lower ends and enable the legs to swing relative to one another.

The spaced, elongate arm rests 125 and 126 have a T-shaped cross-section and are disposed one on either side of the frame 112 between their respective inner and outer upright walls 130, 137 and 131, 138. The rearward ends of the arm rests 125 and 126 each are provided with a suitable pivot 185 so that they may be rotated between a closed, upright position within the frame 112 between the inner and outer upright walls.

The back rest 123 is pivotally connected, as by opposed pivots 190, with the inner side walls 137 and 138,

or by hinges (not shown), adjacent the top wall 132 and has a pair of spaced side portions 192 and 193 which slide along the front surfaces 195 and 196 of the upper portions of the front legs 117 and 118. When the front legs 117 and 118 are moved outward to an open position, the back rest 123 is pivoted outwardly relative to the frame 112 to tilt the back rest 123 to a comfortable position. When the chair is moved to a closed position, the back rest 123 is moved within the frame 112 against the inner side walls 137 and 138 which the back rest 123 overlaps. The inner side walls 137 and 138 have a depth less than the thickness of the outer side walls 130 and 131 to accommodate the back rest 123 within the frame cavity. Formed at the top of the back rest 123 intermediate the sides is a hanger receiver slot 199 adapted to receive a wall mount so that the chair frame assembly may be mounted to an upright wall. To enable the frame 12 to be hung lengthwise, a similar slot 154 is defined in a bracket 155 provided adjacent the long outer side wall 131 intermediate the top and bottom walls 132 and 133.

A third embodiment of the chair and frame assembly, generally designated 210, is shown in Figs. 8 and 9 and is seen to generally comprise three basic components: a thin, rectangular frame, generally designated 212; a folding chair, generally designated 214, including a seat 215, a first pair of spaced apart, relatively long, front legs 217 and 218, a second pair of spaced apart, relatively short, rear legs 220 and 221, and a back 223; and, a pair of arm rests 225 and 226.

The rectangular frame 212 is seen to include

opposed, spaced upright thin outer side walls 230 and 231, opposed, spaced thin top and bottom walls 232 and 233 extending between the corresponding upper and lower ends of the outer side walls 230 and 231, and a back panel 235.

- 5 The L-shaped walls 230, 231, 232 and 233 and the back panel 235 mounted on the inwardly extending legs of the L-shaped walls define a relatively thin, rectangular box, or picture frame, with a shallow internal cavity and an open front. Spaced inwardly from and parallel to each of the side walls 10 230 and 231 within the frame 212 are a pair of opposed, spaced upright inner side walls 237 and 238, which extend between the top and bottom walls 232 and 233.

- The front legs 217 and 218 extend upwardly and rearwardly from their respective lower ends 240 and 241 15 resting on the supporting surface to a point adjacent to and inward of the upright inner side walls 237 and 238. A cross brace 243 is provided between the front legs 217 and 218 for rigidity and for use as a possible foot rest. The respective upper ends 246 of the front legs 217 and 218 20 each have lateral outwardly extending pivots 248 positioned in cooperatively-engaging, elongate sliding slots 250 defined in the respective inward faces of the inner upright walls 237 and 238.

- The seat 215 has ears 257 and 258 extending 25 laterally outward from either side thereof adjacent its rear edge 277 to define stepped-in portions 260 and 261 on either side edge continuing to its front edge 276, thereby defining a narrowed portion extending forward from the ears 257 and 258 to the front edge 276 of the seat 215. The 30 ears 257 and 258 have respective lateral outwardly

Application of Michael B. Foy

extending pivots 263 positioned in cooperatively-engaging,
elongate sliding slots 264 and 265 defined in the
respective midsection of the inward faces of the long legs
217 and 218.

5 The rear legs 220 and 221 extend upwardly and
forwardly from their respective lower ends 267 and 268 to
their respective upper ends 270 and 271 positioned on
either side of the seat 215. The lower ends 267 and 268 of
the rear legs 220 and 221 are each positioned inward of and
10 spaced from the respective upright inner walls 237 and 238
approximately the width of the front legs 217 and 218. The
lower ends 267 and 268 of the rear legs 220 and 221 have
laterally extending pivots 273 and 274 rotatably connected
15 to respective lower ends of the upright inner walls 237 and
238 to enable the rear legs 220 and 221 to rotate or swing
relative to the frame 212. The upper ends 270 and 271 of
the rear legs 220 and 221 are each positioned outward of
edges 276 and 277 within the stepped-in portions 260 and
20 261 and have lateral inwardly extending pivots 281 to
enable the rear legs 220 and 221 to rotate relative to the
seat 215. The position of the seat pivots 281 are forward
of the pivots 263, which are rearward and spaced therefrom,
25 to provide adequate support for the seat 215 and a user
sitting thereon. The rear legs 220 and 221 are positioned
inwardly of the respective front legs 217 and 218 with each
pair of respective front and rear legs 217, 220 and 218, 221
being provided with pivots 283 to rotatably connect the
respective short and long legs together at a point along
30 their midsection intermediate their respective upper and

lower ends and enable the legs to swing relative to one another.

The spaced, elongate arm rests 225 and 226 have a T-shaped cross-section and are disposed one on either side of the frame 212 between their respective inner and outer upright walls 230,237 and 231,238. The rearward ends of the arm rests 225 and 226 each are provided with a suitable pivot 285 so that they may be rotated between a closed, upright position within the frame 212 between the inner and outer upright walls.

The back rest 223 is pivotally connected, as by opposed pivots 290, with the inner side walls 237 and 238, or by hinges (not shown), adjacent the top wall 232 and has a concave center section 291 for receiving a user's back and a pair of spaced side portions 292 and 293. A linkage 295, one at each side of the back rest 223, is connected between the pivot pin 246 and a slide slot 296, carried at the rear of the side portions of the back rest 223. When the front legs 217 and 218 are moved outward to an open position, the back rest 223 is pivoted outwardly relative to the frame 212 to tilt the back rest 223 to a comfortable position. When the chair is moved to a closed position, the back rest 223 is moved within the frame 212 against the inner side walls 237 and 238 which the back rest 223 overlaps. The inner side walls 237 and 238 have a depth less than the thickness of the outer side walls 230 and 231 to accommodate the back rest 223 within the frame cavity. Formed above the concave back section 291 in a flat surface of the back rest 223 is a hanger receiver slot 299 adapted to receive a wall mount so that the chair frame assembly

may be mounted to an upright wall. To enable the frame 212 to be hung lengthwise, a similar slot 254 is defined in a bracket 255 provided adjacent the long outer side wall 231 intermediate the top and bottom walls 232 and 233.

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Industrial Applicability

From the foregoing, it should be apparent the folding chair described herein is simple, compact and
10 inexpensive, yet is a convenient and reliable item.

Other aspects, objects and advantages of this invention can be obtained from a study of the drawings, the disclosure and the appended claims.